

# Overland Park City Council 2021

Response ID:31 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Amanda Vega-Mavec

### 2. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 13451 W. 106th St

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

### 3. Phone Number

6179130915

### 4. Email Address

amandaforop@gmail.com

### 5. Campaign Website

amandaforop.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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### 6. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Current - El Centro, Inc; Director Academy for Children

Former - Holy Name Catholic School, Principal

### 7. Please list political, community and business organizations with whom you have been affiliated and any leadership positions you have held.

Johnson County Library Foundation Board

Overland Park CDBG Advisory Committee

Latina Giving Circle steering committee

Johnson County Latina Leadership Network

Former Rosedale Development Association board member

Former volunteer advocate for domestic violence hotline

## 3. Issues and Policy

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### 8. List your top three policy issues? (100 words or less)

Inclusion, Engagement, & Accessibility

Overland Park is more and more diverse. There are opportunities for business growth by encouraging minority-owned business as well as those that cater to the specific needs and/or products of underrepresented groups.

Transparency & Accountability

OP residents deserve to know how and where their tax dollars are being collected and spent. Honest and fair service to our community should guide decisions and policy.

Environmental Sustainability

Programming that supports the natural beauty of Overland Park. Focusing on preserving or maintaining native flora and

habitat when possible can help limit the need for some services thus saving money.

**9. What are your views on the services and value the City's citizens receive for their local tax dollars? (100 words or less)**

As is often said, Overland Park is a great place to live, work, play, and learn and we enjoy all the services while paying the lowest tax rate. This is what makes Overland Park such a desirable place to live.

**10. Regarding the City's budget, a 1-mill property tax increase to fund the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Force has been proposed for 2022. Do you support the task for recommendations? Do you support increasing the mill levy for this purpose? Discuss why/why not and how you would fund the recommendations if you support them but not the mill levy increase. (100 words or less)**

At this time I do support the 1-mill property tax increase to fund the recommendations. Overall, our property taxes would remain the lowest. As stated above we have great services for a good price and maintaining those services will periodically involve an increase in taxes.

**11. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the City's proposed budget for 2022?**

Possible changes to consider at this time and moving forward would be expanded opportunities for summer and after school programming for children after the very difficult year due to the pandemic. Another consideration would be additional investment in green space, as city residents have increased their time they spend outdoors due to the pandemic.

**12. What role, if any, do you believe the City should play in economic development to bring jobs and capital investment to the community? (100 words or less)**

The city plays an integral part in economic development through various programs and incentives to bring business of all sizes to the city. It also plays a role in supporting already existing businesses. By doing this the city is able to increase the number of jobs available here. This work needs to be done in an equitable manner that takes into consideration issues beyond "the bottom line." Not all business is a good fit for our community

**13. As the City considers future development and redevelopment projects, describe your views on how the City should best manage and balance growth? (100 words or less)**

I don't believe every undeveloped parcel of land has to be developed. I see immense environmental value in preserving undeveloped land. However, I also know that some development is necessary. I think the city should continue to very carefully analyze each opportunity for new development to determine if it is in the best interest of our community. When looking at both types of development the City should also continue to focus on bringing value to all impacted rather than just a few, looking at the big picture and not just the immediate results.

**14. What do you believe are the greatest challenges the City faces over the next ten years and how would you address them? (100 words or less)**

The two challenges I will focus on are development and increasing diversity. Overland Park will always face the challenge of balancing being a business-friendly location with the needs and wants of residents. Business and residents alike are drawn to Overland Park and the City will continuously find itself weighing how decisions will impact both.

Overland Park, like most cities, will continue to see their population demographics shift and the City will need to more intentionally take into consideration the perspectives and experiences of currently underrepresented groups.

**15. Do you believe the current city manager form of government we have is appropriate for Overland Park or would you favor a "strong mayor" form of government? (100 words or less)**

I believe the current form of government is appropriate for Overland Park, but open to listening to residents and community partners who feel differently. I always welcome the opportunity to hear different perspectives and experiences.

**16. It is estimated that replacing chip seal road resurfacing with a method similar to surrounding cities will cost more than \$20 million per year. Do you favor eliminating the chip seal process, and if so, how would you pay for the increased cost? (100 words or less)**

My campaign is not based on chip-seal or any one issue. This is an area where I have a lot to learn.

**17. What specific proposals do you have to support the goal of providing access to affordable housing throughout the City? (100 words or less)**

The City needs to continuously look at affordable housing options and planning. Many see Overland Park as only accessible to those who want and can afford a single-family, but this is changing and our housing options need to change too.

**18. Since its founding in 1960, Overland Park leaders have had a long history of visionary planning. What do you believe the City should do today to ensure the City's prosperity for the next 60-years? (100 words or less)**

The City needs to continue making long term plans for the city. What I would change is making sure that the process is more equitable and inclusive of the diversity found in our city. Our communities will grow in diversity and all visionary planning needs to take this into consideration. For example, the mental health task force did not appear to include a person of color which leads to the question of whether other underrepresented groups we excluded.

**19. Do you believe the City of Overland Park is headed in the right direction?**

Yes, but we cannot become complacent. Being a city as desirable as Overland Park requires continuous work.

**20. Do you believe the City of Overland Park City Council is responsive to the needs of the community? What is your approach to governance?**

I think overall the City makes efforts to be responsive, but again I think more needs to be done to be accessible to and inclusive of underrepresented groups. My approach to governance is to be involved, inclusive, and transparent. It is also to equip others to be engaged with city government.

**21. Why are you seeking this public office?**

I'm a mom, a wife, and an educator. Overland Park is a great city and it needs a government that represents the true diversity of our community. As an educator, I am focused on service to others. Over the years that service has been to children, families, and teachers. Now, I want to serve the OP community. I will bring my love of service to help our community here in Overland Park.

**22. What do you believe makes you uniquely qualified to serve in this position and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race?**

What most distinguishes me from my opponent is that I bring a new and different perspective that values the power of diversity. I will actively look at how business intersects with and can uplift marginalized communities. Business and government can work together to support everyone in the community.